

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A camouflaged termite monitoring device, comprising:
a housing configured as a landscape element and adapted to engage an upper
ground surface, the housing defining a cavity and an opening to the cavity
through a ground-contacting surface of the housing;
5 a perforated bait cartridge configured to fit within the cavity;
a bait material disposed within the bait cartridge and adapted to be attractive to
termites;
a mesh-like member operably engaged with the housing about the ground-
contacting surface so as to cover the opening and to retain the bait
10 cartridge in the cavity, the mesh-like member being further adapted to
allow termites attracted by the bait material to pass therethrough into the
cavity and the bait cartridge and to infiltrate the housing; and
an inspection hatch operably engaged with the housing and configured to allow
visual inspection of the bait cartridge within the cavity from outside the
15 housing, so as to determine whether termites have infiltrated the housing
and consumed the bait material in the bait cartridge, without removing the
housing from engagement with the upper ground surface.
2. A device according to Claim 1 wherein the inspection hatch is configured
20 to be opaque.
3. A device according to Claim 1 wherein at least one of the bait cartridge,
the cavity, and the mesh-like member are configured so as to become increasingly
prominently visible through the inspection hatch as the bait material is consumed.
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4. A device according to Claim 1 further comprising an anchor member
operably engaged with the housing, the anchor member being adapted to secure the
housing in engagement with the upper ground surface.

5. A device according to Claim 1 wherein the housing, the mesh-like member, the bait cartridge, and the bait material are configured to cooperate to allow the bait material to contact the upper ground surface when the housing is in engagement with the upper ground surface.

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6. A device according to Claim 1 wherein the bait material is configured to be self-wicking.

7. A device according to Claim 1 further comprising a water reservoir
10 disposed within the housing in operable engagement with the bait material and configured so as to provide substantially continuous wetting of the bait material.

8. A device according to Claim 1 wherein the housing further comprises a first portion, the first portion including the ground-contacting surface and being adapted
15 to engage the upper ground surface, and a second portion cooperating with the first portion to define the cavity, the second portion being separably engaged with the first portion and comprising the inspection hatch.

9. A device according to Claim 8 wherein the second portion is connected to
20 the first portion by a hinge.

10. A method of monitoring for termites at a site, comprising:
engaging a housing configured as a landscape element with an upper ground
25 surface without implanting the housing in the ground, the housing defining a cavity and an opening to the cavity through a ground-contacting surface of the housing, the cavity having a perforated bait cartridge disposed therein, the bait cartridge having a bait material disposed therein and adapted to be attractive to termites, the housing having a mesh-like member operably engaged therewith about the ground-contacting surface
30 so as to cover the opening and to retain the bait cartridge in the cavity, the mesh-like member being further adapted to allow termites attracted by the

bait material to pass therethrough into the cavity and the bait cartridge and to infiltrate the housing; and

5 inspecting the bait cartridge so as to determine whether termites have infiltrated the housing and consumed the bait material in the bait cartridge, without removing the housing from engagement with the ground, at least one of the bait cartridge, the cavity, and the mesh-like member being configured so as to become increasingly prominently visible through the inspection hatch as the bait material is consumed.

10 11. A method according to Claim 10 further comprising securing the housing in engagement with the upper ground surface with an anchor member operably engaged with the housing.

15 12. A method according to Claim 11 wherein inspecting the bait cartridge further comprises inspecting the bait cartridge through an opaque inspection hatch, operably engaged with the housing and configured to allow visual inspection of the bait cartridge within the cavity from outside the housing, by separating the inspection hatch from the housing.

20 13. A method according to Claim 11 wherein engaging the housing with the upper ground surface further comprises engaging the housing with the upper ground surface such that the bait material is in contact with the upper ground surface through the bait cartridge and the mesh-like member.

14. A method according to Claim 11 further comprising continuously wetting the bait material with a water reservoir disposed within the housing in operable engagement with the bait material.

15. A method according to Claim 10 further comprising reporting a termite presence to a central station if inspection of the bait cartridge reveals that termites have infiltrated the housing.

16. A method according to Claim 15 further comprising dispatching a pest control professional to the site in response to the termite presence reported to the central station.